



DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dale J Schmidt Sheriff **Scott Mittelstadt** Chief Deputy

November 14, 2018

2018-2019 Seatbelt Grant Task Force

Consistent safety belt use is the single most effective way to protect people from injuries sustained during a motor vehicle crash. In Wisconsin, safety belt use is approximately 89.4%, which is an all-time high for the state. However, Wisconsin is still behind the national average of 90.1%.

In 2017 nearly 47% of the drivers and passengers killed in Wisconsin traffic crashes were not wearing their safety belts. Sadly, Dodge County is not exempt from traffic crashes and we experience the same staggering numbers of injuries and deaths that could have been prevented by simply wearing a seat belt. The numbers only increase with our younger, inexperienced drivers.

From October through September, Dodge County Sheriff's Office will be conducting Seatbelt Enforcement in conjunction with Beaver Dam Police Department, Horicon Police Department, Mayville Police Department, and Lomira Police Department. We aim to help safeguard drivers on our roads by conducting high-visibility Seatbelt Enforcement throughout Dodge County. This enforcement campaign is due in part to this task force receiving \$38,160 in grant funding from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

In Wisconsin law enforcement officers can stop and issue a citation to motorists for failing to wear a safety belt. In addition, drivers can be issued a citation for each passenger in a vehicle who fails to wear a safety belt. This campaign is about preventing injuries and saving lives.

Sgt. Carmen Micale says, "Before hitting the road, drivers need to ensure that everyone is buckled up, every seat, every trip. With the hustle and bustle of the holiday season upon us, please pause and take the few moments to buckle up before your trip. Traffic related deaths and injuries do not only affect your family, they affect ours too. Thank you and drive safe!"

For more Information contact: Sheriff Dale Schmidt (920) 386-3726

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